

Guidance for Schools and Districts on Releasing NSC Data

The OPI is required to notify schools and districts of their obligations when releasing National Student Clearinghouse data provided by OPI.

- The National Student Clearinghouse agrees that schools and districts may disclose their data to “other educators, school boards, and school officials” with legitimate educational interests.
- When releasing to anyone other than the above groups, schools and districts may only release data in the aggregate.
 - Individual students may not be identified in the release of data.
 - Individual universities or campuses may not be identified in the release of data.

Examples of what may be released:

A high school might release a statement saying “50% of our students go to four-year colleges.” Or they might release a statement saying “75% of our students go to school in the state of Montana.”

Examples of what may NOT be released:

The high school could NOT say “50% of our students go to the University of Montana.” They could NOT say “Of the 10% of our students who go out of state for college, 15 go to Gonzaga University.”

All data that comes from the National Student Clearinghouse must be cited as such.

If a school or district has questions about releasing the data, please contact Susan Murray, K-20 Business Analyst at smurray@mt.gov or (406) 444-0727 or Brett Carter, K-20 Data Research Analyst at bcarter2@mt.gov or (406) 444-2080 to get further guidance.